Tunnel Connecting the Red Fort to the Dilli Chalo Park

@*184. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to open 200 year old tunnel connecting the Red Fort to theDilli Chalo Park and the Ring Road behind theFort;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have identified such tunnels used by the ancient monarchs in other States;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) Under the new initiative recently taken, a number of hubs, which synthesise elements of culture, tourism and clean civic life, are being developed. The Red Fort of Delhi is one such hub. Here, various projects of restoration, conservation and improvement have been taken up. A virtual rebirth of the Red Fort is taking place. The projects being executed include elimination of insanitary and slummy conditions in and around the Fort; development of Delhi Chalo Park, which commemorates a part of INA history; opening up of the old underground passages/tunnels to this Park, the Ring Road and the River Front; excavation of Baoli; chemical cleaning up of the Fort Walls, Jharokhas and Burjs; restoration of the ditch and setting up of Dara Shikoh Park in the area between Netaji Subash Marg and the Fort.

As per information available with the Archaeological Survey of India, there is no such 'tunnel' in any of the 'protected mounument[1]. If, however, any precise suggestion with regard to any significant tunnel is received from any State Government or an appropriate agency, the matter would be looked into.

@Question No. 184 and 190 were taken together.